

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

NOEMI CLEMENTE	:	
406 Teesdale St.	:	
Philadelphia, PA 19136	:	
Plaintiff,	:	CIVIL ACTION
v.	:	No.: _____
POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE	:	
OF PHILADELPHIA	:	
2524 E. Clearfield St.	:	<b>JURY TRIAL DEMANDED</b>
Philadelphia, PA 19134	:	
Defendant.	:	

**CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, by and through her undersigned counsel, hereby avers as follows:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This action has been initiated by Noemi Clemente (*hereinafter* referred to as "Plaintiff," unless indicated otherwise) for violations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII - 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d *et. seq.*") and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act ("PHRA"). As a direct consequence of Defendant's unlawful actions, Plaintiff seeks damages as set forth herein.

**II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. This Court, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1331, has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims because this civil action arises under laws of the United States.

3. This Court may properly maintain personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant's contacts with this state and this judicial district are sufficient for the exercise of jurisdiction over Defendant to comply with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice,

satisfying the standard set forth by the United States Supreme Court in International Shoe Co. v. Washington, 326 U.S. 310 (1945) and its progeny. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state-law claim(s) because such claim(s) arise out of the same common nucleus of operative facts as his federal claims asserted herein.

4. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331(b)(1) and (b)(2), venue is properly laid in this district because all of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district, and in addition, Defendant is deemed to reside where it is subject to personal jurisdiction, rendering Defendant a resident of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

5. Plaintiff is proceeding herein under the Title VII and the PHRA and has properly exhausted her administrative remedies (with respect to her Title VII claims) by timely filing a Charge of Discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") and by filing the instant lawsuit within ninety (90) days of receiving a notice of dismissal and/or right to sue letter from the EEOC. Plaintiff also properly administratively exhausted her claims before the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) by waiting for more than 1 year to elapse from filing the instant lawsuit.

### III. PARTIES

6. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.

7. Plaintiff is an adult individual, with an address as set forth in the caption.

8. Defendant Police Athletic League of Philadelphia (*hereinafter* referred to as "Defendant") is a non-profit organization that provides educational, athletic, recreational, after-school and summer programs in 26 centers throughout the Philadelphia area.

9. At all times relevant herein, Defendant acted by and through its agents, servants and employees, each of whom acted at all times relevant herein in the course and scope of their employment with and for Defendant.

**IV. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

10. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.

11. Plaintiff is a 42-year-old female.

12. Plaintiff was hired to work for Defendant as a school teacher.

13. Plaintiff worked for Defendant for approximately two (2) years before she was terminated from her employment in or about early January of 2013 (as discussed *infra*).

14. In or about September of 2012, Plaintiff was transferred to Defendant's Harry Gate Plaza location, wherein an individual by the name of Frank Rivera ("Rivera") became her supervisor.

15. While under the supervision of Rivera, Plaintiff was subjected to unwelcome sexual gestures and statements on a consistent basis up until the time that she was terminated from her employment with Defendant.

16. Rivera's inappropriate sexual comments and gestures included but were not limited to him telling Plaintiff he could "take care of [her]," that she "needed a man like [him]," and that his son has a "big dick" and could "do a woman like [her]."

17. Plaintiff complained to Rivera that his sexual comments and gestures made her uncomfortable, that she wanted the same to cease, and that she was not interested in engaging in a sexual relationship with him.

18. After complaining of sexual harassment to Defendant's management (as discussed *supra*), Rivera started to subject Plaintiff to hostility and animosity, including but not limited to cutting her hours, change her hours without informing her, deducting wages from her pay check, forcing her to stay out of work, and forcing her to work from home without pay.

19. As a result of the aforementioned sexual harassment and Rivera's retaliatory actions, Plaintiff made a complaint to Defendant's upper management including but not limited to Sargent Rice that she was being sexually harassed by Rivera and that she wanted the same to cease.

20. Defendant's management never properly conducted any investigation into Plaintiff's complaints nor did they resolve Plaintiff's concerns of sexual harassment in any meaningful way.

21. Therefore, Defendant's upper management condoned Rivera's actions, perpetuated such conduct, failed to maintain any meaningful policy against sexual harassment, and failed to intervene and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace.

22. In or about January of 2013, shortly after making her aforementioned complaints of sexual harassment, Plaintiff was terminated from Defendant.

23. Plaintiff was informed by Rivera that she was being terminated because she was "unreliable."

24. Defendant's reason for terminating Plaintiff is completely false and pretextual.

**Count I**

**Violations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII")**

**([1] Sexual Harassment; [2] Hostile Work Environment; [3] *Quid-Pro Quo* Termination [4] Retaliation)**

25. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.

26. Plaintiff was subjected to severe and pervasive sexual gestures by her immediate supervisor (Rivera), such that she was subjected to a hostile work environment.

27. Plaintiff complained to Mr. Rivera that his sexual comments and gestures made her uncomfortable, that she wanted the same to cease, and that she was not interested in engaging in a sexual relationship with him.

28. Plaintiff specifically complained to Sargent Rice (Rivera's superior) that Rivera was sexually harassing her and that she wanted the same to cease.

29. Shortly after Plaintiff's complaints of sexual harassment to Defendants' management, Plaintiff was terminated for completely pretextual reasons.

30. Plaintiff believes and therefore avers that she was terminated in retaliation for complaining to Defendants' management about sexual harassment and/or because she refused to engage in a sexual relationship with Rivera.

31. Additionally, Defendant's management failed to stop Rivera from sexually harassing her.

32. Defendants' actions as aforesaid constitute violations of Title VII.

**Count II**  
**Violation of the Pennsylvania Wage Payment Collection Law ("WPCL")**  
**(43 P.S. 260.3(a)-(b))**

33. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.

34. Plaintiff had an agreement with Defendant whereby Defendant agreed to compensate Plaintiff for services she performed during her employment.

35. Defendant failed to compensate Plaintiff for all wages owed during her employment.

36. Plaintiff performed the agreed-upon services for Defendant, and Defendant failed to properly compensate Plaintiff for the services rendered as specified by the Parties' employment agreement (included but not limited to paying Plaintiff for all hours worked after hours, on weekends, at home).

37. Defendant also illegally deducted wages from Plaintiff's paychecks for hours that she worked for Defendant.

38. These actions as aforesaid constitute violations of the Pennsylvania Wage Payment and Collection Law.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays that this Court enter an Order providing that:

A. Defendant is to promulgate and adhere to a policy prohibiting discrimination/retaliation in the future against any employee(s);

B. Defendant is to compensate Plaintiff, reimburse Plaintiff, and make Plaintiff whole for any and all pay and benefits Plaintiff would have received had it not been for Defendants' illegal actions, including but not limited to back pay, front pay, salary, pay increases, bonuses, insurance, and benefits.

C. Plaintiff is to be awarded actual damages, as well as damages for the pain, suffering, and humiliation caused by Defendant's actions;

D. Plaintiff is to be awarded punitive damages as permitted by applicable law in an amount believed by the Court or trier of fact to be appropriate to punish Defendant for its willful, deliberate, malicious, and outrageous conduct and to deter Defendant or other employers from engaging in such misconduct in the future;

E. Plaintiff is to be accorded other equitable and legal relief as the Court deems just, proper, and appropriate;

F. Plaintiff is to be awarded the costs and expenses of this action and a reasonable attorney's fees as provided by applicable federal and state law; and

G. Plaintiff is to receive a trial by jury.

Respectfully submitted,

**KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI, P.C.**

By: 

Ari R. Karpf  
3331 Street Road  
Two Greenwood Square  
Suite 128  
Bensalem, PA 19020  
(215) 639-0801

Dated: June 10, 2014

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**

NOEMI CLEMENTE

CIVIL ACTION

v.

POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE OF  
PHILADELPHIA

NO.

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

**SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:**

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. ( )
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ( )
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ( )
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ( )
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) ( )
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (X)

<u>6/10/2014</u>	<u>Ari R. Karpf</u>	<u>Plaintiff</u>
<u>Date</u>	<u>Attorney-at-law</u>	<u>Attorney for</u>
<u>(215) 639-0801</u>	<u>(215) 639-4970</u>	<u>akarpf@karpf-law.com</u>
<u>Telephone</u>	<u>FAX Number</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Address of Plaintiff: 406 Teesdale Street, Philadelphia, PA 19136

Address of Defendant: 2524 E. Clearfield Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Defendant's place of business

(Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)

Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?  
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))

Yes  No

Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?

Yes  No

RELATED CASE, IF ANY:

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_

Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:

1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?

Yes  No

2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?

Yes  No

3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?

Yes  No

4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?

Yes  No

CIVIL: (Place  in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)

A. Federal Question Cases:

1.  Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
2.  FELA
3.  Jones Act-Personal Injury
4.  Antitrust
5.  Patent
6.  Labor-Management Relations
7.  Civil Rights
8.  Habeas Corpus
9.  Securities Act(s) Cases
10.  Social Security Review Cases
11.  All other Federal Question Cases  
(Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:

1.  Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2.  Airplane Personal Injury
3.  Assault, Defamation
4.  Marine Personal Injury
5.  Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6.  Other Personal Injury (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
7.  Products Liability
8.  Products Liability — Asbestos
9.  All other Diversity Cases  
(Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION

(Check Appropriate Category)

I, Ari R. Karpf, counsel of record do hereby certify:

Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;

Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: 6/10/2014

Attorney-at-Law

ARK2484

Attorney I.D.# 91538

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 6/10/2014

Attorney-at-Law

ARK2484

Attorney I.D.# 91538

CIV. 609 (5/2012)

JS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

### Explanation:

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DATI

**SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD**